

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re PATENT APPLICATION of**

**ABE ET AL.**

**Group Art Unit: Unassigned**

**Application Serial No.: Unassigned**

**Examiner: Unassigned**

**Filed: December 31, 2003 (herewith)**

**Title: SYNTHESIZED SILICA GLASS OPTICAL MEMBER AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING  
THE SAME**

**December 31, 2003**

\* \* \* \* \*

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.96, 1.97, and 1.98, the applicants request consideration of the documents listed on the attached Forms PTO-1449. Copies of these documents were submitted in U.S. Pat. Appl. Ser. No. 09/797,857. The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §§120 and 121 to Ser. No. 09/797,857. According to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of these documents are not enclosed.

The applicants do not waive any rights to appropriate action to establish patentability over the listed documents should they be applied as references against the claims of the present application. This statement should not be construed as a representation that more material information does not exist or that an exhaustive search of the relevant art has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is intended to be fully compliant with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.96, and 1.97. However, should the examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, the applicants earnestly solicit prompt notice to that effect, along with additional time under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(f) to enable the applicants to comply fully.

The applicants respectfully request consideration of the cited documents and making the same of record in the prosecution of the above-identified application.

Inventor(s): ABE *et al.*  
Application No.: **Divisional of Serial No. 09/797,857**  
Attorney Docket No.: **007874-0307449**

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed prior to the receipt of the first official action on the merits. Therefore, the applicants believe that no fee is due. However, the enclosed fee transmittal grants the United States Patent and Trademark Office permission to charge any fees required for the consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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To: U.S. Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark Office

Attorney Docket No. C-M# Client Ref.

007874-0307449

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
BY APPLICANT**

Date: December 31, 2003

Page **1** of **1**

Applicant: ABE et al.

Application. No.: Unassigned

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Examiner: Unassigned Group Art Unit: Unassigned

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner's Initials*	Document Number	Date MM/YYYY	Name (Family Name of First Inventor)	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date (if appropriate)
AR	5,713,979	02/1998	Nicholson			
BR						
CR						
DR						
ER						
FR						
GR						
HR						
IR						
JR						
KR						
LR						
MR						
NR						

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	Document Number	Date MM/YYYY	Country	Inventor Name	English Abstract		Translation Readily Available	
					Enclosed	No	Enclosed	No
OR	8-67530	03/1996	Japan				X	
PR	8-75901	03/1996	Japan				X	
QR	10-67521	03/1998	Japan				X	
RR	11-240728	03/1999	Japan				X	
SR	EP 0 691 312	01/1998	Europe					
TR								
UR								
VR								
WR								
XR								

**OTHER (Including in this order Author, Title, Periodical Name, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

YR			
ZR			
AAR			

Examiner

Date Considered:

\*EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Please draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Please include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.